ABSTRACT

Described is a method for managing interruptions to a network user. The interruptions are

generated by senders on a network. The network user maintains a permanent reception list and a

temporary reception list indicating senders that are allowed preferential treatment in response to

their interruptions. The temporary reception list is modified in response to a retrospective

5   activity or a prospective activity. An interruption received from a sender is presented to the

network user if the permanent reception list or the temporary reception list includes an entry

associated with the sender of the interruption. In one embodiment, the interruption is presented

to the network user if an associated urgency value exceeds an interruption threshold value

defined by the network user. In another embodiment, a customized status message is generated

10   if the permanent reception list or the temporary reception list includes an entry associated with

the sender of a user status request.